

MARKETING DADE COUNTY FLORIDA

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SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLES

BATATAS-BONIATOS

CALABAZAS-PUMPKINS

YUATIAS-MALANGAS

SUMMARY 1969-70 SEASON

FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Consumer and Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Division
Market News Branch

Florida Department of Agriculture
Division of Marketing
Market News Section
Tallahassee, Florida



PREFACE

Information pertinent to the marketing of Dade County Florida sub-tropical vegetables - Batatas-Boniatos, Calabaza-Pumpkins, and Yautias-Malangas is summerized herein for the 1969-70 season, along with comparative data.

Sub-tropical vegetables have increased in importance since World War II, particularly in the past 10 years, not nationally but in large metropolitan areas with heavy Latin-American populations. New York City, is by far, the most important market. Others are Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Miami, Tampa, New Orleans and large Texas cities such as San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Ft. Worth.

The center of production of these vegetables in the United States is Dade County, Florida, in the farm area south of Miami.

This report is the first of its kind ever to bring together data on shipments, imports, prices and other related information on sub-tropical vegetables.

In addition to data compiled by the Federal-State Market News Service, other sources were the Plant Quarantine Division, Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Dade County Agricultural Agent's Office, Cuban farmers and shippers who patiently explained their operations to us, and Dade County trucking firms who have furnished daily shipment data.

Acknowledgement is hereby made to all these agencies and individuals for their information and cooperation.

Additional copies of this SUMMARY are available upon request to any of the following offices:

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DADE COUNTY FLORIDA-MARKETING BATATAS, CALABAZAS AND
YAUTIAS-MALANGAS - 1969-70 SEASON

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In 1961 a Cuban farmer, who had shortly before fled from Cuba, planted in the south Miami farm area 14 Batata plants, and 10 acres of Calabazas.

This was the start of commercial production of sub-tropical vegetables in Florida, and for that matter in the United States.

From that small beginning, plantings increased to where in 1969 the farm value of sub-tropical vegetables in Dade County was estimated at \$5 million by the Dade County Agricultural Agent's Office, and acreage planted for that year at almost 4,000 acres as follows:

Batatas (Boniatos)	2,000
Yautias (Malangas)	1,000
Calabazas (Pumpkins)	300
Yucca (Cassava)	120
	<u>3,920</u>

In addition, there is now a small acreage in Central Florida, and in New Jersey. Last year New Jersey calabazas were quoted in the New York City and Philadelphia market reports.

What brought on this sharp increase for these odd sounding vegetables, unknown to all but a relatively few people, even now? Simply the fact that there was a demand for them by people coming here from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and other Latin American countries. Ever since this country was founded, each national group immigrating here, brought with them their individual food preferences. And so it was that the first sauerkraut in this country was probably prepared by a German, and the first spaghetti and pizza pie by an Italian.

Similarly Latin-Americans have added to the vast variety of foods now available in this country. Of course the size and wide range of climatic and soil conditions of this country has made production possible. But each national group by introducing something new and different, has to that extent enriched and broadened the variety of different foods grown in this country, probably unequalled elsewhere in the world.

The introduction of new food crops adds much to the economy of an area. And so with the increase in production of sub-tropical vegetables in Dade County, new jobs have been provided, additional farm equipment, fertilizers, insecticides, packages, transportation, etc., have been demanded. Another effect has been new crops taking acreage away from other over produced vegetables.

Volume Shipped: Recording of the movement of sub-tropical vegetables was started by the Florida City Federal-State Market News Office late in May 1969. Despite unfavorable growing conditions -- about 33 inches of rainfall from mid-August through October, and the third coldest January on record - the total movement for the 12 month period ending May 1970 was 406 carlot equivalents of 30,000 pounds each. This compares quite favorably with some of the minor Florida vegetables. For example, for the 1969-70 season up to June 8 out-of-state shipments for Florida okra was 160 and for southern peas 163 for a total of only 323 carlot equivalents. The highest out-of-state shipments ever for mangoes was 193 carlots of 28,000 lbs each in 1968.

Sub-tropical Vegetable Names: Different Caribbean and other tropical countries have different names for the same vegetables. Moreover, each vegetable has different types and varieties, some widely different in appearance and uses. All this makes for uncertainty and confusion in selecting acceptable names, hence the dual names in this report - Batatas-Boniatos, Calabaza-Pumpkins and Yautias-Malangas.

BATATAS-BONIATOS are a tuber starchy vegetable of the sweet potato family, but more similar to Irish potatoes in appearance, texture, taste and use. Roots are larger and heavier than potatoes, of denser or heavier texture, and much more irregular and knobby in appearance. They are prepared and cooked in various ways, about the same as potatoes. Color of skin is deep purple, red or yellow with flesh from white to yellow and deep orange. Those grown in Dade County have white flesh.

Because it takes 4-6 months to grow this vegetables expansion to production in other areas is limited because most areas lack this long of a growing season.

Batatas are thoroughly washed, graded, and packed in 50-lb. sacks.

CALABAZAS-PUMPKINS are similar to pumpkins in shape, texture and use, but smoother and mottled green in color, yellow when fully ripe. They have a rich flavor similar to Acorn or Danish squash, and can be boiled, baked or made into pies the same as other types of hard shell squash and pumpkins.

Calabazas are packed in 50 to 100 lb. sacks, but most are 75 lbs.

YAUTIAS-MALANGAS, also called Dasheens, are of many different types and varieties. Less common names in this country are taro, tania, tanier, tanyah, belembe, calalu and eddo. All are perennial tuberous plants with large elephant-like ears leaves, growing as much as 5 feet above the ground. Some do not produce edible tubers and only leaves and shoots are eaten.

The Yautias grown in Dade County are the long type of the Blanca or white variety, of dark brown rough skin with white flesh and rather nut like flavor. Malanga is a popular name for them in Dade County but in New York City and Philadelphia they are quoted as Yautias. In those markets only the round type is called Malanga.

Yautias-Malangas are more nutritious than Irish potatoes but not so easily digested. They are used in stews, soups and consomes.

They are washed, graded and packed in 50-lb. crates or cartons in Dade County. It takes 10-12 months to grow this vegetable. Expansion of production in other areas is therefore limited because very few in the United States have that long a growing season.

CASSAVA-YUCCA: Production in Dade County has been very small, only about 150 acres in 1969. This is a shrubby perennial, grown widely in the tropics for the large fleshy tuberous starchy roots. Some types or varieties are bitter and used for extraction into flour for making into bread or commercial tapioca. Some are sweet and they are eaten as vegetables in stews and soups.

Of total imports there is no designation of the amount suitable for eating and the amount for making into flour and tapioca.

IMPORTS: Total imports of Cassava-Yucca, Calabazas-Pumpkins, Yautias-Malanga-Dasheens, and Batatas-Boniatos-Yams for the year ending June 1969 was slightly over 25 million pounds. This was 77 percent over that imported in 1959-60.

However, this is not a true comparison because in 1959-60 no frozen quantities of these vegetables were reported as imported, while in 1968-69 the total frozen was almost 2 million pounds. Assuming that the frozen weight of 2 million pounds was the equivalent of 3 million pounds in the fresh state, the total imports in equivalent fresh form for 1968-69 would be about 28 million pounds or about double that of 1959-60.

Total Supplies Available in recent years, however, have more than doubled over 1959-60 when account is taken of the volume shipped from Dade County - 406 carlot equivalents in 1969-70, against none in 1959-60.

Back in 1959-60 Cuba was the main source of imports, but in 1968-69 the Dominican Republic accounted for about 72 percent of all imports of Batatas-Boniatos-Dasheens, about 85 percent of Cassava-Yuccas, 84 percent of Calabaza-Pumpkins and about 42 percent of all Yams which includes Yautias-Malangas.

As the tables on imports in following pages show, many more countries now take part in sending their tropical vegetables to the United States than nine years earlier.

Points of Entry for Imports for Batatas are New York City, Florida ports such as Miami, Port Everglades, West Palm Beach, and Jacksonville; Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and a few others. However, San Juan Puerto Rico, considered part of the United States ranks high.

For Calabazas, New York City ranked first, followed by San Juan Puerto Rico, then in Florida - Miami, West Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Jacksonville, also Philadelphia, Baltimore and lesser quantities through Texas border towns.

For Yautias-Malangas-Yams, by far most entered through New York City and San Juan Puerto Rico, with lesser amounts through Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami, plus a few others.

Air and Truck Freight Rates: An important factor for the increase in tropical vegetables from the Dominican Republic may be the relative low air rates for it's fruit and vegetables, to Miami from $3\frac{1}{2}$ - 6¢ per pound depending on weight and airline, but mostly $3\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb. and to New York City 7-8 cents per lb. However, most shipments to New York are by boat.

Truck rates from Dade County have been increasing. Currently they are around mostly \$2.00 per cwt., some Yautias-Malangas \$2.10.

Prices: For Florida Batatas in 1969, highest prices in New York City were from January through May, ranging \$5.50-7.50, mostly \$6.50-7.00 per 50-lb. sack. Lowest prices were in September \$3.50-4.50, higher thereafter to mostly \$6.00-6.50 for the remainder of 1969.

For Florida Calabazas New York City per lb. prices ranged 14-17¢ in January and February; 13-15¢ mostly 14-15¢ for March-May; 8-14¢ mostly 12-13¢ from June-October; and 12-15¢ in November and December. New Jersey prices were lower.

New York City 1969 prices for Florida Yautias ranged \$7.00-13.00 per 50-lb carton or crate in 1969, the highest prevailing in January, the lowest in December. For most of the year, the range was \$8.00-9.00.

The round type Yautias, reported as Malangas from Puerto Rico ranged \$7.00-8.00 in 1969, a few as high as \$11.00 in February.

SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLES - BATATAS, CALABAZAS & YAUTIAS - DADE COUNTY

SHIPMENTS BY MONTHS, JUNE 1969--May 1970

(Reported by trucking firms)

Year & Month	BATATAS-BONIATOS	CALABAZAS-PUMPKINS	YAUTIAS-MALANGAS
	50-lb Sacks	Sax, various wgt avg. 75 lbs	50-lb Crts or Ctns
- 1969 -			
June	11,659	3,377	2,940
July	11,185	2,936	1,306
August	11,374	3,009	951
September	6,885	1,329	1,853
October	9,742	1,259	2,289
November	11,110	770	6,824
December	11,246	295	7,602
- 1970 -			
January	7,096	230	7,519
February	7,296	70	5,555
March	7,952	---	10,820
April	6,318	---	8,402
May	8,374	164	9,496
Estimated shipped with-in Florida	16,500	2,000	9,800
Exported to Puerto Rico	10,920	---	---
TOTAL	137,657	15,449	75,357
Carlot equivs <u>/1</u>	229	26	151

/1 For Batatas & Yautias 600 50-lb. sacks or crates per carlot; for Calabazas 500 75-lb sacks per carlot.

SELECTED SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLE SUPPLIES:

Imports for 1959-60 & 1968-69 & Dade County Florida Shipments, 1969-70

Commodity	IMPORTS		Total Supplies - Carlots 30,000 lbs each			
	1959-60	1968-69	Imports		Dade County	
	Pounds	Pounds	1959-60	1968-69	1959-60	1969-70
Cassava-Yucca	2,868,496	5,456,120	96	182	-	-
Calabazas-Pumpkins	2,981,615	4,082,933	97	136	-	26
Yautias-Malangas-Dasheens	8,274,465	10,029,327	276	334	-	151
Batatas-Boniatos-Yams	48,157	5,503,457	2	184	-	229
Total, Fresh	14,172,733	25,071,837	471	836	-	406
Total, Frozen-Fresh equiv.	---	3,000,000	-	100	-	NA
Grand total	14,172,733	28,071,837	471	936	-	406

FROZEN: None reported for 1959-60 but for 1968-69 as follows:

Cassava-Yucca	1,938,059
Calabazas-Pumpkins	---
Yautias-Malanga-Dasheens	23,975
Batatas-Boniatos-Yams	1,279
Total	1,953,313

POINTS OF ENTRY FOR SELECTED SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLES YEAR ENDING JUNE 1969

Commodity & Entry Point	Fresh Pounds	Frozen Pounds	Commodity & Entry Point	Fresh Pounds	Frozen Pounds
<u>BATATAS-BONIATOS-DASHEENS</u>			<u>CASSAVA-YUCCA</u>		
New York City	5,668,936	21,590	New York City	3,663,052	639,036
Florida Points			San Juan P. Rico	150,695	218,217
Miami	2,077,900	900	Florida Points		
Port Everglades	483,312	---	Miami	613,705	722,630
W. Palm Beach	68,490	---	W. Palm Beach	285,732	---
Jacksonville	32,556	---	Port Everglades	123,393	97,358
Total Florida	2,662,758	900	Jacksonville	5,400	37,035
San Juan P. Rico	1,150,547	---	Tampa	149,975	74,624
Philadelphia	164,229	---	Total Florida	1,178,205	931,647
Los Angeles	160,017	---	Philadelphia	157,049	49,160
San Francisco	110,283	1,485	Los Angeles	79,834	---
Baltimore	70,359	---	San Francisco	55,355	---
Boston	12,420	---	San Diego	86,696	---
Honolulu, Hawaii	29,216	---	Baltimore	38,428	---
San Diego	468	---	New Orleans	65,806	---
Total	10,029,327	23,975	Total	5,475,120	1,838,060
<u>CALABAZAS-PUMPKINS</u>			<u>YAUTIAS-MALANGAS-YAMS</u>		
New York City	1,546,122	---	New York City	3,123,492	---
San Juan P. Rico	1,224,356	---	San Juan P. Rico	2,306,262	---
Florida Points			Los Angeles	36,680	---
Miami	369,474	---	Honolulu	20,273	---
W. Palm Beach	319,079	---	San Francisco	12,408	---
Port Everglades	16,642	---	Miami	2,677	---
Jacksonville	56,050	---	Port Everglades	---	1,279
Total Fla	761,245	---	Seattle	1,640	---
Philadelphia	101,450	---	Chicago	25	---
Brownsville & other Texas	337,960	---	Total	5,503,457	1,279
Baltimore	11,800	---			
Total	4,082,933	---			

IMPORTS INTO UNITED STATES OF SELECTED SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLES BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

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1959-60 and 1968-69 (Year Ending in June)

Commodity-Fresh & Origin	1959-60 Pounds	1968-69 Pounds	Commodity-Fresh & Origin	1959-60 Pounds	1968-69 Pounds
<u>BATATAS-BONIATOS-DASHEENS /1</u>			<u>CASSAVA-YUCCA /1</u>		
Azores	107,078	32,738	Dominican Republic	57,015	4,652,695
Brazil	---	76,460	Columbia	---	1,400
Barbados	---	517,201	Costa Rica	---	148,448
British W. Indies Is.	3,240	---	El Salvador	---	1,300
British W. Pacific Is.	---	50,403	Guatemala	7,208	275,528
Costa Rica	---	3,964	Haiti	---	100
Cuba	7,743,018	---	Mexico	---	86,696
Dominican Republic	247,252	7,177,110	Nicaragua	---	13,870
Guatemala	---	71,090	Venezuela	---	276,083
Haiti	---	1,442,667	Cuba	2,804,273	---
Honduras	---	322			
Hong Kong	31,003	136,597	<u>Total</u>	<u>2,868,496</u>	<u>5,456,120</u>
Jamaica	---	20,350			
Japan	1,125	8,202	<u>YAUTIA-MALANGA-YAMS /1</u>		
Leeward-Windward Is.	---	48,820	Barbados	---	1,202,145
Mexico	5,920	468	British West Indies	1,480	---
Nicaragua	---	90,058	British Honduras	---	27
New Zealand	---	13,756	British Pacific Is.	---	16,381
Portugal	83,283	114,722	Columbia	---	746,072
Trinidad & Tobago	---	122,300	Dominican Republic	324	2,323,512
Taiwan (Formosa)	1,945	---	Ghana	---	25
Venezuela	---	45,099	Haiti	---	196,555
			Hong Kong	43,603	---
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,274,464</u>	<u>10,029,327</u>	Jamaica	---	561,125
			Japan	2,750	51,020
<u>CALABAZA-PUMPKINS /1</u>			Leeward-Windward Is.	---	390,450
British W. Indies	2,001	---	Nicaragua	---	3,300
Costa Rica	---	14,941	Portugal	---	6,000
Cuba	2,659,676	---	New Zealand	---	300
Dominican Republic	5,235	3,414,532	Trinidad & Tobago	---	6,545
Haiti	---	42,173			
Jamaica	---	63,750	<u>Total</u>	<u>48,157</u>	<u>5,503,457</u>
Leeward-Windward Is.	---	79,650			
Mexico	314,703	337,960			
Panama	---	6,200			
Trinidad & Tobago	---	9,352			
Venezuela	---	114,375			
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,981,615</u>	<u>4,082,933</u>			

/1 In Plant Quarantine, USDA Agricultural Service reports, Batatas-Boniatos are reported under the name of DASHEENS; Calabazas under the name of PUMPKINS; Yuccas under the name of CASSAVA; and Yautias-Malangas under the name of YAMS.

FROZEN SELECTED SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO UNITED STATES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 1959-60 and 1968-69 (Year Ending in June)

Commodity & Country	1959-60	1968-69
<u>BATATAS-BONIATOS-DASHEENS</u>		
Guatemala	-	900
Haiti	-	5,100
Dominican Rep	-	16,490
Japan	-	1,435
<u>Total</u>	-	<u>23,975</u>
<u>CASSAVA-YUCCA</u>		
Columbia	-	54,960
Costa Rica	-	241,253
Dominican Rep	-	771,333
Guatemala	-	408,649
Panama	-	11,125
Peru	-	2,804
Venezuela	-	347,936
<u>Total</u>	-	<u>1,838,060</u>
<u>CALABAZAS-PUMPKINS</u>		
	-	---
<u>YAUTIAS-MALANGAS-YAMS</u>		
Venezuela	-	1,279
<u>Total all Vegetables</u>	-	<u>1,863,314</u>

SELECTED SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLES - 1969 PRICE RANGES BY MONTHS IN
LEADING WHOLESALE TERMINAL MARKETS

N E W Y O R K C I T Y - Thursday prices

Month	BATATAS			CALABAZA			VAUTIA		MALANGA
	Florida 50-lb. sacks	P. Rico	Dom Rep	Fla Cents Per Pound	N Jsy	Dom Rep	Florida 50-lb. sacks	Dom Rep	
Jan	6.50-7.00 mostly 6.50	-	-	15-17¢ mostly 16-17¢	-	15-18¢	10.00-13.00 mostly 12.00-13.00	11.00-13.00	-
Feb	7.00-7.50	-	-	16-18¢	-	16-18¢ mostly 18¢	9.00-11.00 mostly 9.50-10.50	9.00-11.00	7.25-11.00
Mar	6.50-7.00	-	-	13-15¢	-	13-14¢	8.00-9.50 mostly 8.50-9.00	6.50-9.50	7.25-8.00
Apr	6.50-7.50 mostly 6.50-7.00 5.50-7.00	-	-	14¢	-	12-15¢	8.00-9.00 mostly 8.50-8.75	5.50-7.50	7.50-8.00
May	mostly 6.00-6.75	6.50	6.50	14-15¢	-	12-14¢	8.00-9.00 mostly 8.00-8.50	7.00-8.50 mostly 8.00-8.50	7.25-8.00
June	5.50-6.50	-	-	12¢	-	12-13¢	7.75-8.50 mostly 8.00-8.50	7.00-8.50 mostly 7.25-8.25	7.25-7.50 mostly 7.50
July	4.50-5.50 mostly 4.75-5.00	-	-	10-12¢ mostly 12¢	-	12¢ fair q 10¢	9.00 few 8.50	7.50-9.00 mostly 8.00-8.75	7.00-7.50
Aug	4.00-4.50 mostly 4.25-4.50 3.50-4.50	4.00-5.00	4.00-5.00	12-14¢ mostly 12-13¢	-	10-12¢	8.00-9.00 mostly 8.25-8.50	7.50-8.00 mostly 7.50	7.50
Sept	mostly 4.00-4.25 3.75-6.50	4.50	4.50	11-13¢ mostly 12-13¢	10¢	-	8.00-9.00 mostly 8.50-9.00	7.50-8.50	7.50
Oct	mostly 4.00-6.00 6.00-6.50	6.00-6.50	6.25	8-12¢ mostly 12¢	6-10¢ mostly 8-10¢	-	8.50	7.00-8.00 mostly 7.75	7.50 few 7.25
Nov	mostly 6.50	-	-	12-15¢	8-13¢	-	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00 mostly 7.50-7.75	7.00-7.50 mostly 7.50
Dec	6.00-6.50	-	-	13-15¢	-	12-16¢ mostly 12¢	7.00-7.50 mostly 7.50	7.50-8.00 mostly 7.50	7.00-7.50

P H I L A D E L P H I A - Monday's Prices

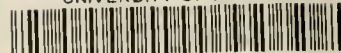
Month	BATATAS			CALABAZA			VAUTIA		MALANGA
	Florida 50-lb sacks	P. Rico	Dom Rep	P. Rico	D Rep	N Jsy	Florida 50-lb Crate	Dom Rep	
Jan	6.00-6.25 mostly 6.00	-	-	-	-	-	13.00	-	-
Feb	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	-
Mar	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	9.25-10.00 mostly 10.00	9.00	8.00
Apr	-	6.75-7.50 mostly 7.50	15¢	13¢	-	-	9.25	8.00	8.50
May	-	6.75	-	15¢	-	-	8.75	8.00-8.75	8.50
June	-	6.25	-	15¢	-	-	8.75	8.75-9.00	8.50
July	-	6.25	-	15¢	-	-	9.50	-	8.50
Aug	-	6.25	-	15¢	15¢	-	8.00-9.50	8.00-8.50 mostly 8.00	8.00-8.50
Sept	-	4.00-5.00	-	-	15¢	-	8.00	7.75-8.00 mostly 8.00	3.00-8.50
Oct	7.00	7.00	-	-	15¢	-	8.00	8.00	8.50
Nov	7.00	-	-	-	15¢	-	8.00	8.00	8.50
Dec	7.00	-	-	15-20¢	-	-	8.00	8.00	7.50-8.50

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SUB-TROPICAL VEGETABLE SUMMARY - 1969-70 SEASON
Florida City, F & V Shipping Point
June 1970